
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**April 22, 2008
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori	MTA
Butler, Martha	MTA
Gerhart, Rex	MTA
Litschi, Michael	OCTA
Richmani, Michael	MTA
Walecka, Carla	Transportation Corridor Agencies
Williams, Leann	Caltrans District 7
Wegener, Michelle	Parsons
Walston, Amy	Parsons

SCAG Staff

Asuncion, John
Ayala, Rosemary
Del Rosario, Sheryll
Nadler, Jonathan
Patsaouras, Sylvia
Sherwood, Arnie
Stewart, Justus

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace	RCTC
Ambrosi, Rafael	Caltrans District 11
Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County Air Pollution
Casey, Rose	OCTA

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Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Phu, Dan	OCTA
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Johnson, Sandy	Caltrans District 11
Kurtz, James	EDAW
Lopez, Rosa	IVAG
Mazur, Jean	FHWA
Reynolds, Jason	EDAW
Wade, Dennis	ARB
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Michael Litschi, OCTA, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 TCWG March 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, gave the TCWG a brief update on the 2006 RTIP Amendments. Mr. Asuncion stated that State approval for Amendment #15 has been received. Federal approval is forthcoming. Administrative Modification #16 was submitted and approved by Caltrans. Submittals for Amendment #17 are due to SCAG later this week. The 2006 RTIP Consistency Amendment is scheduled for approval with the 2008 RTP at

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SCAG's Regional Council meeting on May 8th. A list of the amendment projects were posted on SCAG's website in January 2008. As of this date, SCAG has not received any comments on these projects.

Mr. Asuncion also discussed the 2008 RTIP. SCAG is currently on schedule to submit the 2008 RTIP to Caltrans by August 1st. At the next meeting of the TCWG, staff will present information on the conformity analysis. There is a tentative RTAC meeting date on May 27th to discuss the 2008 RTIP.

In June, staff will request SCAG's Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) to release the Draft 2008 RTIP for public review and comments. Once the draft has been released, staff will follow SCAG's Public Participation Plan and hold three Public Hearings on the 2008 RTIP.

The Public Hearing schedule is posted on SCAG's website, as follows:

- June 12th, Riverside County
- June 19, Los Angeles County (Imperial County will be able to videoconference into this meeting)
- June 25th, Orange County

SCAG will ask the Regional Council to approve the 2008 RTIP at its July meeting. If this does not transpire, a special meeting of SCAG's Executive Committee will take place to approve the RTIP. This will enable staff to submit the 2008 RTIP to Caltrans by August 1st.

4.2 SIP Update

Dennis Wade, ARB, provided a State Implementation Plan (SIP) update. Mr. Wade discussed the status of the SIP for the Western Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) ozone non-attainment area (Antelope Valley portion of Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County portion of MDAB excluding Searles Valley). Because of the emissions transport from the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley, as well as the expected timing of emissions reductions in these upwind areas, the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management

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District are requesting reclassification of their planning areas from moderate to Severe-17, with an attainment date of June 15, 2021.

Mr. Wade also provided an update on the Ventura County ozone non-attainment area. On February 14, 2008, ARB formally requested that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reclassify this ozone non-attainment area one classification level to a serious 8-hour ozone nonattainment area with a June 15, 2013 attainment date. Ventura County's public hearing for its Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) and Attainment Plan is scheduled for May 2008.

Imperial County was reclassified to a Moderate ozone non-attainment area. Imperial County and ARB are preparing an Ozone Plan and a PM10 Plan both of which due at the end of this year. The ARB hearings for these Plans will be held after local adoption.

To account for concerns raised by U.S EPA, on April 24th, ARB will be considering revisions to the South Coast motor vehicle emission budgets. U.S. EPA is parallel processing their review of the revised South Coast emission budgets which is expected to allow SCAG to adopt the 2008 RTP in May.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, stated that EPA determined that the emissions budgets set forth in the Early Progress Plans for Western Mojave, Ventura, Imperial, and Coachella Valley were deemed adequate.

4.3 RTP Update

On behalf of Naresh Amatya, Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, reported that the RTP public comment period had closed. The comments are posted on SCAG's website. On May 8th, the SCAG Regional Council is scheduled to review and consider adoption of the 2008 RTP. The public comment period for the revised conformity report closes on April 28th. Comments received will be summarized and responded to. As reported during the last item, SCAG has received the adequacy findings on the Early Progress Plan emission budgets.

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On April 24th there will be an ARB hearing on the revised South Coast emission budgets. Two sets of budgets have been developed, with the expectation that one of them, or some portion of one, will be deemed adequate by EPA. SCAG's analysis demonstrates conformity on both sets of budgets, so that no matter whether EPA chooses one, or part of one of the sets of budgets, conformity has been demonstrated.

4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) ORA120359 – Operation improvement project on southbound Route 5 (SB I-5) between Tustin Ranch Road and Jamboree Rd in the Cities of Irvine and Tustin.

Not a POAQC - Pending concurrence by EPA.

2) ORA000193 – State Route 22 West Orange County Connection Phase II project will add High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) bridge structure to provide direct freeway-to-freeway HOV lane connectors at the SR-22/I-405 and I-405/I-605 interchanges.

Not a POAQC - Pending concurrence by EPA.

3) RIV001203 and RIV990727 – Widen Indian Canyon Drive for a distance of approximately 1,219 meters (4,000 feet).

Not a POAQC - Pending concurrence by EPA.

4.5 Review of Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis

LA01342 – Construct High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes on Interstate 10, from PM 31.2 to PM 33.4 in Los Angeles County from I-605 to Puente Avenue.

Andrew Yoon, Caltrans District 7, discussed that the qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis for LA01342 was approved in 2000 and revaluated in 2006. Determination was made for CO and PM10. The project will construct an HOV lane in the median along the I-10 between the 605 and Puente Avenue.

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A revised qualitative analysis has been prepared. As shown by the analysis, this is not expected to delay the attainment of the PM2.5 standard. EPA has concurred with the conclusion of the analysis. FHWA and Caltrans have concurred that the project is acceptable for public review.

4.6 Projects Requiring Follow-Up

ORA120350 – Wilshire Boulevard Bus Lane Only Project

MTA brought forth the Wilshire Boulevard Bus-Only Lane Project. This project was submitted as part of the Very Small Starts FY 2009 Application. The project involves converting 9.6 miles of Wilshire Boulevard, from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica, to bus-only lanes during peak-hour traffic. MTA asked the TCWG to review the project and determine whether this project can be considered exempt from PM2.5 hot spot analysis requirements. Per an email discussion, FHWA, EPA, and Caltrans concurred that the Wilshire Boulevard Bus-Only Lane Project was exempt from PM2.5 requirements under 40 CFR 93.126.

LAOD45 – Schuyler Heim Bridge Replacement and SR-47 Expressway Project

A revised qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis was submitted to the TCWG on March 25, 2008. The scope of the project was changed to include an additional two-lane, elevated flyover structure from eastbound Ocean Boulevard to northbound-SR-47. The revised qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation by Caltrans and FHWA at the March 25th meeting. Per an email discussion, EPA provided concurrence.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

No items.

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6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Michael Litschi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on May 27, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.